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When the FFA began in 1928 around 90% of the population was involved in production agriculture. At this time, no females or African Americans were allowed in Agriculture education. However, as times changed Agriculture education adapted. What began as a small gathering of farm boys, soon grew and spread all over the country. Today, Agriculture claims less than 2% of the work force; however the FFA Program is the largest youth leadership organization in the entire nation. This world renowned program that encompasses over 500 thousand high school students is defined by three major categories, Classroom work, a Supervised Agriculture Experience Project such as raising a crop or livestock, and Leadership which involves Speaking and Judging teams. Though the FFA is easily defined the impact that it has had on its students would be impossible to put into the words. For the past three years, as an FFA member, I have competed in Extemporaneous public speaking and I will be representing California in October at the National Competition. This competition, which is one of the many offered to FFA members, involves drawing a random topic, writing a 4-6 minute speech in a 30 minute time period, and then delivering that speech and being knowledgeable enough on the topic to answer 5 minutes of questions. Through this competition I have researched all of the major issues facing Agriculture and I have gained an excitement about what the future holds for Agriculture. I have heard today of the many struggles that are facing Agriculture and of the goals set forth, in this sessions, for the future. It is important to remember though that in order to accomplish these goals we must continue to educate the future leaders of the Agriculture industry. Career technical education must be broadened and strengthened as it is the foundation for the development of leaders in an industry that California cannot live without.